

Acknowledgements

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A flurry of *Sitotroga cerealella* Olivier (Lep.: Gelechiidae) in Kent

Whilst browsing round a large garden centre at Badgers Mount, north-west Kent, on 10th December 1994 I saw a small child collide with a table containing dried flower arrangements. Although the child appeared undisturbed by this event, the same could not be said for a number of moths lurking in the arrangements who rose as one and dashed in all directions. Embarrassingly net-less and tube-less I could only watch the exodus, but the two or three moths that settled on the low ceiling began running around with a characteristically gelechiid gait. On closer inspection they turned out to be *Sitotroga cerealella*, a cosmopolitan but not often seen pest species.

Although no larval feedings could be found (not unexpected, as the larva can develop within a single grain of, for example, wheat), but it seems probable that the moths emerged from dried cereals used in the arrangements. Sprays of "corn", often dyed with unnatural colours, abounded. Another example of the adaptability of moths!— PAUL SOKOLOFF, 4 Steep Close, Green Street Green, Orpington, Kent BR6 6DS.

Devon moth records

I would like to record three new and unpublished records for Devon: *Pedasia contaminella* Hbn. (Pyralidae) found commonly on Dawlish Warren on 6th, 8th and 23rd August 1994; *Mythimna obsoleta* Hbn. (Noctuidae) previously recorded by B. Henwood at Colyton and A. Spalding at Slapton (both Devon localities) – recorded in numbers by myself at Exminster Marshes on 26.v and 19.vi.1994, where it appears to be breeding; *Arenostola phragmitidis* Hbn. (Noctuidae) previously recorded in the 1980s and several noted at Dawlish Warren 16.vii.1994, presumably a breeding colony. This species has been seen at Berryhead by B. Henwood and R.J. Heckford, 27.vii.1990; Colyton 1.viii.1982; Abbotskerswell 4.viii.1994.

A species recorded and reported before, although not confirmed as a breeding species, is the noctuid *Earias clorana*. This moth is very common on Dawlish Warren, being noted on 15.vi and 17.vii.1994.— R. McCORMICK, 36 Paradise Road, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8NR.